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DD/A Registry

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OC M76-109  
1 MAR 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT : Coordination of RD&E Program

REFERENCE : DD/A 76-0823

1. A review of the reference has been completed and we offer the following comments:

a. First, to ensure that we do not have problems with semantics, FY-1977 should be referred to as the budget year and FY-1978 as the program year, not the reverse as depicted in paragraph 2 of the reference.

b. Discussion of requirements and proposed solutions should be the primary purpose of the January meetings outlined in paragraph 2a(1) of the reference. The term "hopefully" in the final sentence of this paragraph implies that some other purpose is also to be served by these meetings.

c. Regarding paragraph 2a(2), we agree with the intent. However, we believe leaving the inter-workings of the two Directorates in completely informal channels during this phase could lead to misunderstandings and less than a best joint effort and product. Formal paperwork should be prepared summarizing the results of the informal exchanges.

d. Paragraph 2a(4) of the reference states that "your comments will be solicited...", but it does not say that our comments will be incorporated into any adjustments. It can be interpreted to mean that adjustments will be driven only by budget and fiscal guidelines and restraint. This concerns us because we may have strong concerns in other areas such as project definitions, equipment performance specifications, etc.

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e. It is assumed that the term "pertinent reprogramming" that appears in paragraphs 2a(5) and 2b(1) means any reprogramming which affects any DD/A programs.

f. Regarding paragraph 2c(1), we would like the word "significant" dropped. Again, we believe that any reprogramming affecting DD/A programs should be worked out with us through the DD/A Assistant for Resources and perhaps the DD/A Plans Staff.

2. In view of recent initiatives displayed by DD/S&T, which depict a desire to improve working relationships with DD/A Offices, the above comments may appear to be of a "nitpicking" nature. It is true that the comments are defensive in character, but, as you know, there is a basis for such feelings on our part regarding Communications R&D programs. Certainly, we hope that procedures can be clarified and that a better product results, and we will do everything we can to maintain good relationships, with each Directorate performing its responsibilities without usurping those belonging to the other.

3. Because of the recent transfer of Covert Communications RD&E to OTS, OC is presently rewriting the existing Memorandum of Agreement between OC and OD&E to reflect this organizational change, as well as our experience with the agreement since it was written in 1974. At the appropriate time we hope to present a draft to DD/S&T personnel for their comments. As a result, we hope to arrive at a more precise understanding of our respective roles with formal documentation.

STATINTL

  
Director of Communications

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